

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-1226V

UNPUBLISHED

BROOKE OFFHAUS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: March 7, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;  
Table Injury; Influenza (Flu) Vaccine;  
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Matthew F. Belanger, Faraci Lange, LLP, Rochester, NY, for Petitioner.*

*Dhairya Divyakant Jani, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **RULING ON ENTITLEMENT**<sup>1</sup>

On April 16, 2021, Brooke Offhaus filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she developed Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) after an influenza (“flu”) vaccination she received on October 10, 2018. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that she suffered the effects of her GBS for more than six months and has not received compensation for her vaccine-related injuries. Petition at ¶¶ 19, 23. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 4, 2022, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent’s Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, Respondent states that it is his “position that Petitioner has satisfied the

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Ruling will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation.” *Id.* at 6. Respondent further states that “the scope of damages to be awarded is limited to Petitioner’s GBS and its related sequelae only.” *Id.*

**In view of Respondent’s position and the evidence of record, I find that Petitioner is entitled to compensation.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master